

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital recording/reproducing apparatus in which an information medium for storing audio-visual information corresponding to a plurality of types of audio languages and sound mode information associated
5 with these audio languages is used, wherein

said apparatus is configured to record the audio-visual information on the information medium or to reproduce the audio-visual information from the
10 information medium based on at least one of a plurality of different formats.

2. A digital recording/reproducing apparatus in which an information medium for storing audio-visual information corresponding to a plurality of types of audio languages and sound mode information associated
15 with these audio languages is used to perform recording or reproducing based on at least one of first and second formats, said apparatus comprising:

a first judging section for judging whether said
20 audio-visual information includes said plurality of types of audio languages; and

a second judging section for judging whether a specified audio language set in said first format is applied to said second format, when said audio-visual
25 information includes said plurality of types of audio languages,

wherein the specified audio language is utilized

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in recording or reproducing based on said second format, when the specified audio language set in said first format is applied to said second format.

5 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second format has predetermined management information, the management information includes one or more pieces of stream information, and said sound mode information is recorded in each stream information.

10 4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an audio data portion of said audio-visual information is recorded in said information medium by a data unit having a predetermined header, and

said apparatus further comprises:

15 a first section for judging a sound mode of said audio data to be recorded in said information medium; and

a second section for setting said judged sound mode in the header of said data unit.

20 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, which records audio-visual information of television broadcast in a recordable optical disc, or reproduces the audio-visual information from the recorded optical disc, said apparatus comprising:

25 a bilingual broadcast detector for detecting whether said television broadcast is bilingual broadcast;

a sound changeover section for selecting and

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outputting a sound of a language corresponding to a specified audio language via said bilingual broadcast, when said television broadcast is the bilingual broadcast and the specified audio language set in
5 reproducing the sound from said recorded optical disc is followed; and

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10 a sound output section for outputting the sound included in the audio-visual information of the broadcast as it is, when said television broadcast is not the bilingual broadcast.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, having a function for recording audio-visual information of television broadcast in a recordable optical disc, or reproducing the audio-visual information from the
15 recorded optical disc,

wherein an audio data portion of said audio-visual information is recorded as audio stream data in said recordable optical disc, and

20 the sound mode of said audio data to be recorded in said recordable optical disc is set and constituted as a part of said audio stream data.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, having a function for recording audio-visual information of television broadcast in a recordable optical disc, or
25 reproducing the audio-visual information from the recorded optical disc,

wherein management information including one or

more pieces of stream information is recorded in said recordable optical disc, and information of a sound mode is recorded in each piece of stream information.

5 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, having
a function for recording audio-visual information including a multilingual sound in a recordable optical disc, or reproducing the audio-visual information including the multilingual sound from the recorded optical disc,

10 wherein management information including one or more pieces of stream information is recorded in said recordable optical disc, and information of a sound mode is recorded in each piece of stream information, and

15 during reproduction of said recordable optical disc, when said sound mode information extracted from said stream information indicates the multilingual sound, and if the multilingual language reproduced from said recorded optical disc is a specified language,
20 then setting for outputting only a sound of a specified language is performed.

 9. A television tuner which can be used with the apparatus of claim 1, said apparatus having a function for recording audio-visual information of television
25 broadcast in a recordable optical disc, or reproducing the audio-visual information from the recorded optical disc, said tuner comprising:

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a bilingual broadcast detector configured to detect whether said television broadcast is bilingual broadcast;

5 a sound changeover section configured to select and output a sound of a language corresponding to a specified audio language via said bilingual broadcast, when said television broadcast is the bilingual broadcast and the specified audio language set in reproducing the sound from said recorded optical
10 disc is followed; and

a sound output section configured to output the sound included in the audio-visual information of the broadcast as it is, when said television broadcast is not the bilingual broadcast.

15 10. A digital recording/reproducing method in which an information medium for storing audio-visual information corresponding to a plurality of types of audio languages and sound mode information associated with these audio languages is used to perform recording
20 or reproducing based on at least one of first and second formats, said method comprising:

judging whether said audio-visual information includes said plurality of types of audio languages;

judging whether a specified audio language set in
25 said first format is applied to said second format, when said audio-visual information includes said plurality of types of audio languages; and

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utilizing the specified audio language in recording or reproducing based on said second format, when the specified audio language set in said first format is applied to said second format.

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